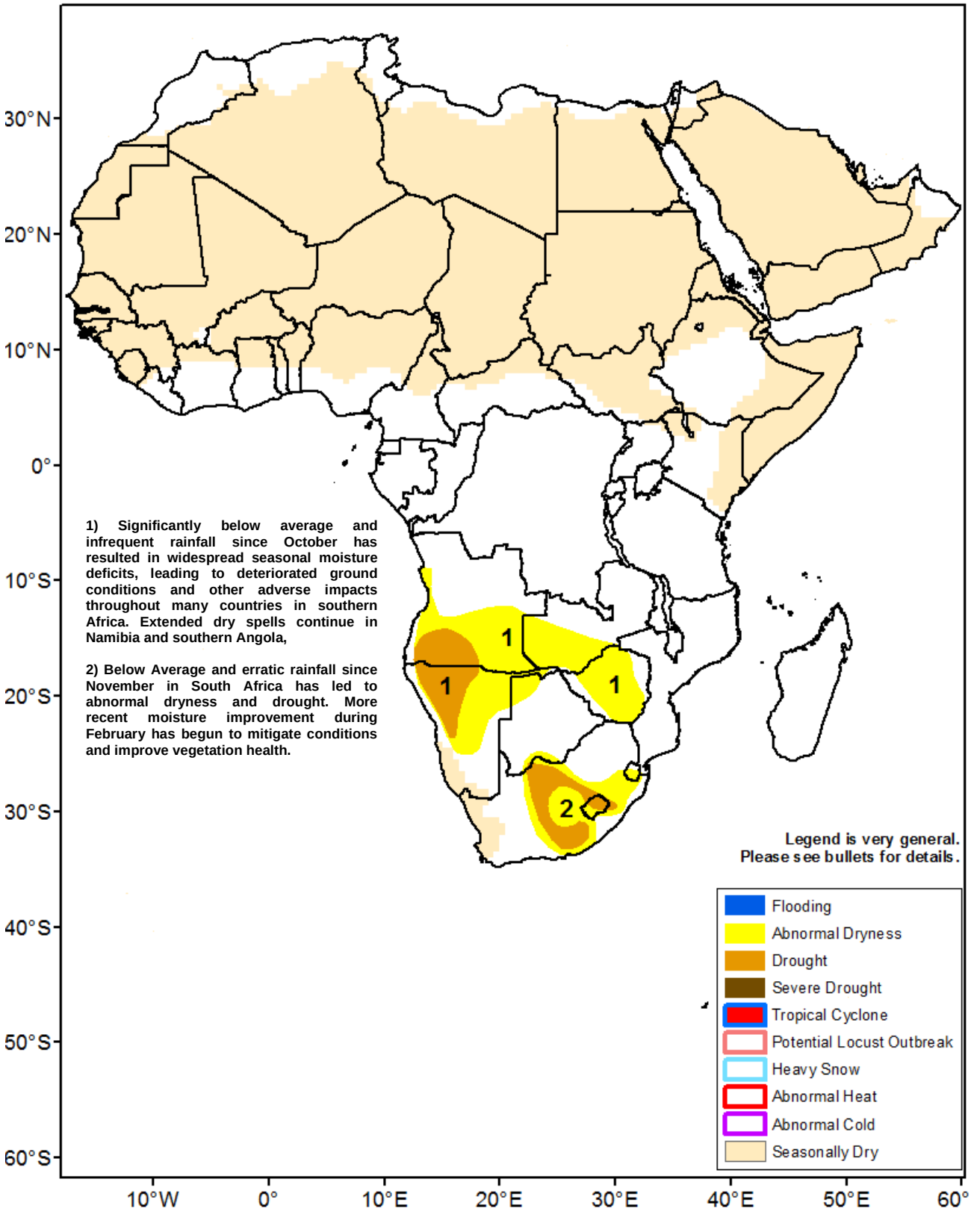
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
February 21 - 27, 2019

- **Heavy rainfall moved southward into parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and eastern Botswana.**
- **Abnormal dryness and drought continues to strengthen over parts of Angola and Namibia.**



Heavy rains received over central/southern Mozambique, Zimbabwe and eastern Botswana.

The zone of strong monsoonal convergence shifted southward this week, bringing enhanced rainfall to central and southern parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and northern/eastern Botswana. According to satellite rainfall estimates, weekly accumulations in excess of 100mm were registered locally over these areas (**Figure 1**). More broadly, favorable rainfall greater than 50mm was received over other parts of Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, the Caprivi Strip region of Namibia, and parts of Madagascar. Meanwhile, lesser and suppressed accumulations were observed over most of Namibia, Angola, northern Mozambique, Tanzania, Mozambique, and parts of Madagascar. Areas of southwestern Angola, western Namibia and eastern Tanzania received no rainfall at all.

With many periods of heavy rains over the past 30 days, wetter than normal precipitation conditions are observed throughout parts of Zambia, northern Mozambique, northern Tanzania, and Malawi. After earlier flooding issues in Antananarivo, Madagascar, torrential rains have more recently led to flooding in Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe, and in Malawi. Besides above-average moisture conditions in those regions, 30-day moisture surpluses are also evident in southeastern Mozambique, northern Madagascar, and several areas in South Africa (**Figure 2**). Surpluses in South Africa are reflective of significant increases in rainfall over the past 3 weeks. Despite short-term recovery, deficits persist over the longer 90-day period for some areas, especially in the west.

However, much of southwestern Africa has not experienced any favorable increase in moisture, which has resulted in extremely poor percent of normal values over southern Angola, Namibia, western South Africa, and western Botswana (**Figure 2**). Many of these areas experiencing dryness over the past 30 days are also registering below-average precipitation amounts since early November. Namely, many parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, western Zambia, western South Africa, and northern Zimbabwe have received near-record lows in precipitation quantities for the last 90 days. Here, periods with 6-8 consecutive weeks of below-normal rainfall are common. With no increase in moisture during the first half of February, drought conditions have strengthened and are likely to continue for many of these regions. Ground impacts from those extended dry spells and low totals are strongly reflected by poor values in vegetation health indices.

Madagascar experienced an uneven beginning to the precipitation season during late 2018. This was followed by a wet period during January and broad moisture recovery. The pattern has switched again, with a few weeks of suppressed rainfall in southern and central areas now reflected by negative 30 and 90-day anomalies.

Weather models are predicting that monsoon convergence will return northward during the next 7 days. This will bring increased rainfall back to areas that have been wet since the start of 2019. Heavy rainfall amounts of over 100mm are likely in northern Mozambique, Malawi, eastern Zambia, and southern DRC. Meanwhile, to the south, a large chunk of the region is expected to experience much suppressed rains. Many areas such as Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and western South Africa are predicted to receive

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)
Valid: February 13 – February 19, 2019

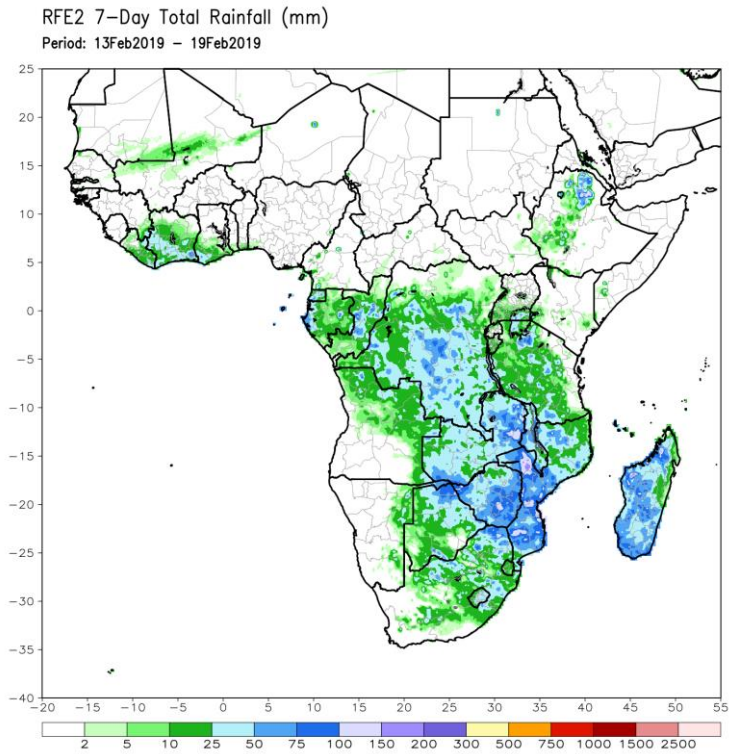


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

30-Day Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: January 21, 2019 – February 1, 2019

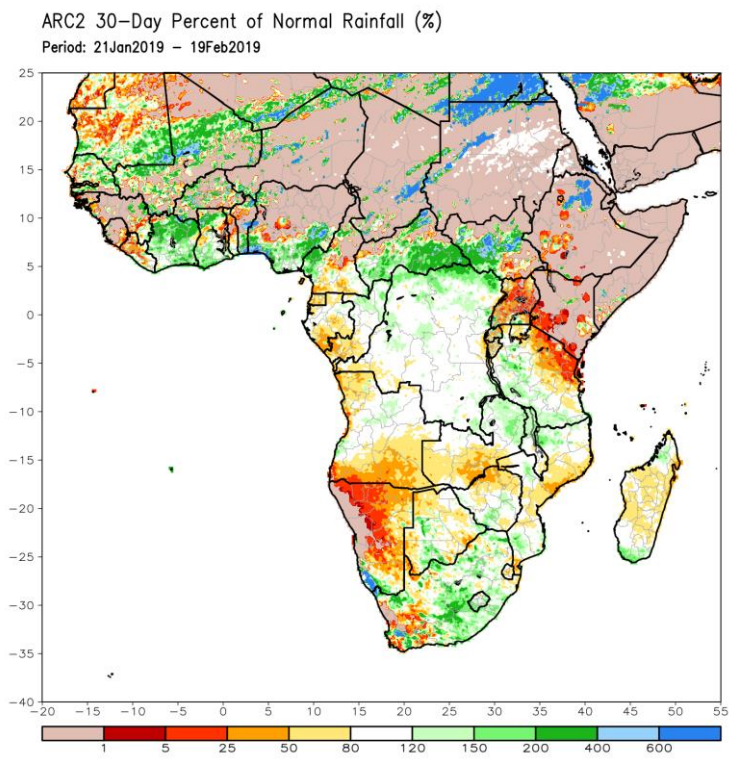


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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less than 10mm of rainfall. Madagascar is forecast to experience a suppression of rainfall, especially over the western half of the island.